

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

All claims currently being amended are shown with deleted text struckthrough or double bracketed and new text underlined. Additionally, the status of each claim is indicated in parenthetical expression following the claim number.

No claims have been cancelled.

No claims have been withdrawn.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A topical composition comprising:
at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid; and
water, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.

Claim 2 (original): The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of about 3.6 to about 4.2.

Claim 3 (original): The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition has a pH of about 3.7 to about 4.0.

Claim 4 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 5 (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 6 (original): The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound is selected from the group consisting of cystine, cysteine, N-acetyl cysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, methionine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes aminosugar.

Claim 8 (original): The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar includes glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-phosphate, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (original): The composition of claim 1, comprising about 15% (w/v) to about 25% (w/v) pretreated ascorbic acid.

Claim 10 (original): The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, deionized water, distilled deionized water and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, further comprising about 0.5% to about 5% (w/v) of a non-toxic zinc salt.

Claim 12 (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulfate.

Claim 13 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising a tyrosine compound selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, N-acetyl-tyrosine, tyrosine ethyl ester hydrochloride, tyrosine phosphate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (original): The composition of claim 13, comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/v) of the tyrosine compound.

Claim 15 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 16 (original): The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes glycerol, propyleneglycol, sorbitol, hydroxypropylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 17 (original): The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes alkylene glycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A topical composition comprising:
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18, wherein about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid.

Claim 20 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a non-toxic zinc salt.

Claim 21 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a stimulant of protein synthesis.

Claim 22 (original): The composition of claim 21, wherein the stimulant of protein synthesis is a tyrosine compound.

Claim 23 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a precursor of melanin synthesis.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.

Claim 25 (original): The composition of claim 18, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A topical composition comprising:

- an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid, wherein about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid;
- a non-toxic zinc salt; and
- a tyrosine compound, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.